



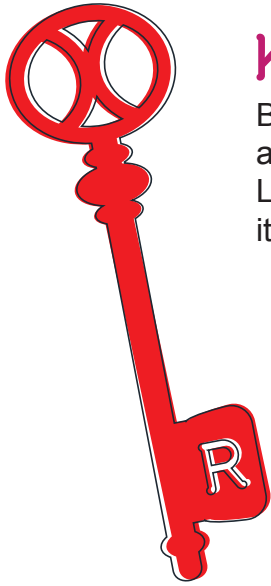
Use Expression and Pacing

Keys to
Fluency

**Ruby
Reader**

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Use Expression and Pacing



Keys for the Teacher

Beginning readers often read in long strings of words, barely stopping to take a breath. They use one tone and seem unaware of phrasing and punctuation. Learning to read with expression and pacing will make reading more enjoyable; it will enhance the meaning of the text and is pleasing to listen to.

Keys for the Children

Good readers add expression and pacing as they read. It makes reading more fun.

Lesson

Share with the children two simple hand drawn pictures of a rainbow. One is made with a black crayon only; the other rainbow has the full spectrum of color. Explain to the students that you will be sharing with them two different ways to read. One way is to use expression and pacing and the other way has none. Begin with using no expression and run the words together in a monotone voice.

I love rainbows! I really like all the colors. Have you ever seen a real rainbow? I have.

I was so surprised. I wish they were in the sky all the time. Wouldn't that be fun?

Next, tell the children you are going to read the same thing again but this time you will be using expression and pacing. Be sure to pause at the punctuation and add variety in your tone and pace. Following this reading, ask the children which reading reminded them of which picture. Why? Were the stories alike in any way? How were they different? Which did they prefer listening to?

Continued...

Time to practice. “We’re going to say, ‘I can’t wait to open that present’ quickly to show our excitement.” Let children say out loud or pair students and take turns.

Sentences to Practice

- *I can’t wait to open that present.*
- *I am really mad.*
- *Let’s tiptoe in the room.*
- *My hammer went bang, bang, bang,*
- *Will you be my friend?*
- *I really mean it!*
- *I fell down and my knee is bleeding.*
- *I love to eat cheese said the mouse.*

Expression to Add

- *Quick to show excitement*
- *Slow to call attention*
- *Soft to match the action*
- *Loud to match the action*
- *Voice goes up for a question mark*
- *Voice gets louder for an exclamation mark*
- *Show feelings*
- *Use character voices*

Talk about all the different variations students used to show expression and pacing . . . volume, pitch, emotion and timing. On another day you might try the sentences again but assign different expressions and pacing. Notice the changes in sounds and meanings. The bottom-line is that we want students to realize that expression and pacing help us understand and enjoy what we read.

Notes...

1

To be successful with this strategy, a student needs to be reading books with good accuracy. They must be able to shift their focus from decoding words to fluent reading.

2

Expression and Pacing differ from Smooth Reading. The prime issue in Smooth Reading is to move away from “one word at a time” reading so common with beginning readers. There are more variables to master in Expression and Pacing. . . volume, pitch, timing and emotion.